William Force Stead Papers

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections
November 2006
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Summary Information

Repository	Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections
Title	William Force Stead Papers
Date	1934-1967
Extent	2.0 Linear feet 3 boxes
Language	English
Abstract	The William Force Stead Papers consists primarily of writings by William Force Stead including manuscripts, clippings of published works, correspondence, and ephemera. The collection includes a detailed inventory of the collection, Steads"s personal bibliography of his published works, and information about Yale University’s related Stead collection. The largest series of the collection consists of Stead’s writings and correspondence. In addition, it contains correspondence with Christopher Smart, including a Christmas card from celebrated poet, T.S. Eliot. Lettters of endorsement and correspondence with Richard Hart, Head of the Humanities department at the Enoch Pratt Free Library, are also included.

Biographical/Historical note

William Force Stead was born in Washington D.C. on August 29, 1884. He married Anne Francis Goldsborough in 1911, had two sons, Philip and Julian Stead. A poet and clergyman, Stead was educated at the University of Virginia, and served as Vice Consul with the U.S. Foreign Service in Liverpool, England during World War I. After the war, he attended Queen's College, Oxford. In 1922, Stead was appointed Assistant Chaplain of the English Church at Florence, Italy. He returned to England to earn a Master of Arts degree at Oxford in 1925, and in 1927, was appointed Chaplain of Worcester College, where he later became a fellow. In 1935, Stead received a Bachelor of Literature degree at Oxford. Stead returned to the United States to visit his father in the summer of 1939, just before World War II began. Unable to return to England, Stead settled in Baltimore, Maryland, and taught English at Trinity College in Washington, D.C. He died in 1967 after several years of failing health.

While living in England, Stead befriended some of the most influential poets and writers of his time, including William Butler Yeats, John Masefield, Robert Bridges, Edmund Blunden, Louis Golding, Richard Hughes, Robert Graves, and Arthur Bryant. He was particularly close to poet T.S. Eliot during Eliot's religious conversion in 1927, when Force baptized him into the Anglican Church.

A writer himself, Stead published several books of poetry between 1911 and 1933, including, "Moonflowers," "Windflowers," "The Holy Innocents," and "Festival in Tuscany." Stead's most notable poem, "Uriel," was published in 1933 and heralded as a culmination of his writings and research on religion, philosophy, and metaphysics. In addition to poetry, Stead was a prolific writer of literary criticisms, and published articles in leading English and American periodicals, including The London Times, The Spectator, The New York Times, and The Atlantic Monthly. Although Stead gained a fair amount of recognition for his writing, he is best known for his discovery of an unknown manuscript by poet Christopher Smart (1722-1771), Rejoice in the Lamb: A Song from Bedlam, which he edited and published in 1939. In addition to his scholarship on Smart, Stead was an honorary secretary of the Keats-Shelley Memorial Association, an English museum and study center in Rome dedicated to Keats, Shelly, and other Romantic poets.

Scope and Contents note

The William Force Stead Collections consists primarily of writings by William Force Stead including manuscripts, clippings of published works, correspondence, and ephemera.

Arrangement note

I. William Force Stead Collection and Biographical Material, 1944-1967: This series includes information about the gift of the William Force Stead Collection, and materials relating to William Force Stead's life and works. It is divided into two subseries. The first subseries, Collection Information, includes a detailed inventory of the collection, and information about Yale University's related Stead collection. The second subseries contains a variety of biographical writings and a bibliography of William Force Stead's published material.

II. William Force Stead Writings and Correspondence: The largest series, series two, is made up of William Force Stead's writings and correspondence. This series is divided into four subseries. The first subseries contains Stead's poetry manuscripts and leaflets. The individual manuscripts are arranged alphabetically, and the number of copies of each poem is noted. While they are mostly typed, there are a few written manuscripts, and many contain handwritten edits and notes. The second subseries contains other writings by Stead, in the form of newspaper clippings of published works, a speech, essays, and miscellaneous prose. Bound volumes of writings constitute the third series, including poetry leaflets, a scrapbook, and a binder. The fourth subseries is William Force Stead correspondence. Arranged chronologically, it consists mainly of correspondence regarding Christopher Smart, and correspondence with the Enoch Pratt Free Library, and includes a Christmas card from celebrated poet, T.S. Eliot.

III. Correspondence About William Force Stead: The third series is divided into two subseries: 1. Letters Endorsing William Force Stead, 1934, and 2. Correspondence with Richard Hart 1965-66. The letters of recommendation were written by teachers, colleagues, and friends to support Stead in his pursuit of a teaching position. Several distinguished writers contributed their endorsement of Stead, including Edmund Blunden, T.S. Eliot, and William Butler Yeats. The correspondence with Richard Hart, Chairman of the Humanities Department at the Enoch Pratt Free Library, deals mainly with the William Force Stead Collection and efforts to aid Stead in publishing a volume of his poetry.

IV: William Force Stead Ephemera: The final series is made up of ephemera. The first subseries consists of newspaper clippings saved by Stead. The second subseries contains miscellaneous ephemera, including materials relating to Stead's published works, a pamphlet from an exhibit on Christopher Smart, and a flyer publicizing one of Stead's speaking engagements.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections November 2006

Conditions Governing Access

Unrestricted, open by appointment.

Immediate Source of Acquisition note

Unknown.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- New York times.
- The Spectator.
- Times (London, England).
- Trinity College (Washington, D.C.).
- University of Virginia.
- Worcester College (University of Oxford).

Genre(s)

- Biographical writing.
- Correspondence
- Ephemera
- literary criticism
- manuscripts (document genre)
- newspapers
- pamphlets
- Personal bibliography
- poetry
- scrapbooks

Personal Name(s)

- Eliot , T. S. (Thomas Stearns), 1888-1965
- Hart, Richard H. (Harry)
- Smart, Christopher, 1722-1771

- Stead, William Force
- Yeats, W. B. (William Butler) , 1865-1939

Subject(s)

- American poetry -- Maryland
- Media clippings

Collection Inventory

Series I: William Force Stead Collection and Biographical Material, 1944-1967	**Box** 1	**Folder** 1-6
Subseries 1: Collection Information, 1967	**Box** 1	**Folder** 1-2
	Box	**Folder**
Inventory of William Force Stead Collection- 2 copies, n.d.	1	1
Information on William Force Stead Yale collection, 1967	1	2
Subseries 2: William Force Stead Collection and Biographical Material, 1944-1967	**Box** 1	**Folder** 3-6
	Box	**Folder**
Biographical Sketch and Bibliography, EPFL, 1944-45	1	3
W.F.S. Obituaries, 1967	1	4
Introductory Speech from W.F.S. Poetry Reading, n.d	1	5
Newspaper Clipping, “Poet Amities Profit Library: Eliot Papers Expand Collection,” n.d.	1	6
Series II: William Force Stead Writings and Correspondence, 1925-1965	**Box** 1-3	**Folder** 7-79

Subseries 1: Poetry Manuscripts, dates unknown	Box 1	Folder 7-62
	Box	**Folder**
Manuscript, “Apology for Eve”- 2 copies	1	7
Manuscript, “Ars Vivendi”- 3 copies	1	8
Manuscript, “At Bethel”- 3 copies	1	9
Manuscript, “At San Mamette”- 2 copies	1	10
Manuscript, “Autumn Twilight”- 2 copies	1	11
Manuscript, “Away Over the Water” 2 copies	1	12
Manuscript, “The Barn”	1	13
Manuscript, “Bee in Late Autumn”- 3 copies	1	14
Manuscript, “Complaint of a Mullein Weed”	1	15
Manuscript, “Early Waking”- 2 copies	1	16
Manuscript, “Earnest Endeavours,” handwritten	1	17
Manuscript, “Even Song in Autumn”	1	18
Manuscript, “Falling Leaf”- 2 copies	1	19

Subseries 1: Poetry Manuscripts, dates unknown

Manuscript, “Festival in Tuscany”	1	20
Manuscript, “Flowering Night”	1	21
Manuscript, “The Gardener,” handwritten	1	22
Manuscript, “Good Cheer”	1	23
Manuscript, “Good Friday”	1	24
Manuscript, “The Guarded Mount”	1	25
Manuscript, “The Haunted Hamlet”	1	26
Manuscript, “Her Powder Box”- 4 copies	1	27
Manuscript, “His Nymph Grazing”	1	28
Manuscript, “His Nymph Triumphant,” handwritten	1	29
Manuscript, “How Infinite Are Thy Ways”- 2 copies	1	30
Manuscript, “If One Ill-Chosen Jest”	1	31
Manuscript, “In Memoriam: R.D.N.”- 2 copies	1	32
Manuscript, “Immanence”	1	33

Subseries 1: Poetry Manuscripts, dates unknown

Manuscript, “Innamorata”	1	34
Manuscript and Note, “Instant of Creation”	1	35
Manuscript, “Invasion”	1	36
Manuscript, “Nancy”- 4 copies	1	37
Manuscript, “Never Mine”	1	38
Manuscript, “Night-Piece in Winter”- 2 copies	1	39
Manuscript, “Night Rhapsody”	1	40
Manuscript, “Nil Report”	1	41
Manuscript, “Now She Has Gone”	1	42
Manuscript, “Paestum”- 3 copies	1	43
Manuscript, “Pastel”	1	44
Manuscript, “Pastorals 1: Old Pullen”	1	45
Manuscript, “Pastorals 2: Southern Idyll”- 2 copies	1	46
Manuscript, “Penitent Nancy”	1	47

Subseries 1: Poetry Manuscripts, dates unknown

Manuscript, “Prophecy”	1	48
Manuscript, “Proud Defeat”- 2 versions	1	49
Manuscript, “Requiem”- 2 copies	1	50
Manuscript, “Return to Ariadne”	1	51
Manuscript, “Riding by Night”- 4 copies	1	52
Manuscript, “Shopping”	1	53
Manuscript, “Storm Approaching in Umbria”- 3 copies	1	54
Manuscript, “The Sunflower”- 2 copies	1	55
Manuscript, “Transition”	1	56
Manuscript, “Troubadour”	1	57
Manuscript, “Vigil”	1	58
Manuscript, “Voyage”	1	59
Manuscript, “Wasted Love”	1	60
Manuscript, “The Well”- 4 copies, one handwritten	1	61

Manuscript, “Wreck of the Spanish Privateers: A Sea Chanty”	1	62
Subseries 2: Other Writings, 1925-1965	**Box** 2	**Folder** 63-67
	Box	**Folder**
Published works, clippings, 1925-1952	2	63
Essay, “Impressions of T.S. Eliot,” manuscript and printed copy in Alumnal Journal of Trinity College, 1965	2	64
Essay, “A Pilgrim in Doubt,” n.d.	2	65
Speech, “ Oxford Poets,” n.d.	2	66
Miscellaneous Prose, n.d.	2	67
Subseries 3: Bound Volumes, 1934-1965	**Box** 2	**Folder** 68-69
	Box	**Folder**
Leaflet, “A Few Poems by W.F.S,” 1958	2	68
Leaflet, “Four Poems,” n.d.	2	69
		Box
Scrapbook “Essays by W.F. Stead,” 1934-1936		2
Binder “Poems by William Force Stead,” 1965		2
Subseries 4: Correspondence, 1940-1965	**Box**	**Folder**

	3	70-79
	Box	**Folder**
Correspondence with Richard Hart, 1940-1965	3	70
Correspondence with Robert Brittain, 1948	3	71
Correspondence with G.W. Cottrell, Jr., 1950	3	72
Correspondence with William H. Bond, 1950	3	73
Correspondence with Rupert Hart-Davis, 1950	3	75
Correspondence with Theodore S. Amussen, 1950	3	75
Correspondence with Beta K. Manakee, 1965	3	76
Correspondence with his father, n.d.	3	77
Christmas Card from T.S. Eliot, n.d.	3	78
Letter on the death of C.H. Wilkinson, n.d.	3	79
Series III- Correspondence about William Force Stead, 1934-1966	**Box** 3	**Folder** 80-96
Subseries 1: Letters Endorsing William Force Stead, 1934	**Box** 3	**Folder** 80-89
	Box	**Folder**
Edmund Blunden, November 1934	3	80

T.S. Eliot, November 1934	3	81
G.E. Fasnacht, November 1934	3	82
F.J. Lys, November 1934	3	83
D.L. Murray, November 1934	3	84
David Capell Simpson, November 1934	3	85
B.H. Streeter, November 1934	3	86
James R. Sutherland, November 1934	3	87
B.A. Wright, November 1934	3	88
W.B. Yeats, n.d.	3	89

Subseries 2: Correspondence with Richard Hart, 1965-1966	**Box** 3	**Folder** 90-94
	Box	**Folder**
Richard Hart with Michael L. Turner, 1965-1966	3	90
Richard Hart with Trinity College, 1965-1966	3	91
Richard Hart with David C. Mearns, 1966	3	92
Richard Hart with Rev. James A. Magner, 1966	3	93

Richard Hart with Mary Ellen Evans, 1966	3	94
Series IV- William Force Stead Ephemera	**Box** 3	**Folder** 95-96
	Box	**Folder**
Newspaper Clippings, 1950, 1965	3	95
Miscellaneous Ephemera	3	96